

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is responsive to the Final Office Action mailed February 6, 2004. In that Action, claims 8-11, 14-16, and 18-20 were pending; claims 14, 18, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite; and claims 8-11, 15, 16, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Berkley, et al. (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2002/0131573) in view of Birch (USPN 5,293,470).

Claims 8, 14, 15, 16, and 18 are currently amended. The first amendment to claim 14 and the first amendment to claim 18 are made to address the Section 112 rejections. The first and last amendments to claim 8, the remaining amendments to claim 14, the second and third amendments to claim 15, the second amendment to claim 16, and the second amendment to claim 18 are all made to correct previous typographical errors or to make the claims read better. The remaining amendments to claims 8 and 15 are made to even further distinguish over the prior art of record. Reconsideration of the rejections of the claims is hereby rejected.

The two independent claims (claims 8 and 15) have been rejected based on a combination of Berkley and Birch. Berkley appears to disclose an active user registry with a database integrated with the POTS network and a packet network. Birch appears to disclose a data processing system which defines and processes objects and defines a plurality of virtual screens of display data.

Independent claims 8 and 15, as now amended, relate to receiving a query from an entity and using hierarchal information associated with the entity to determine which entries in a shared directory can be used and provided to the entity in a second view, the second view including only the entries from the directory which include the hierarchal information. Neither Berkley nor

Birch contain these key limitations. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 8 and 15 and those claims dependent thereon are patentable over the cited prior art.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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